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## THE GREAT WEST.

### IRRIGATION, FREE SILVER COIN- AGE AND CHEAP TRANS- PORTATION

Are Some of the Wants of the Transmis-  
sissippi Commercial Congress, Lately  
Assembled in St. Louis.

The Transmississippi Commercial con-  
gress held its annual session in St.  
Louis beginning November 26 and con-  
tinuing four days. The main object of  
the association is to discuss and pro-  
mote legislation in the interest of the  
Western people. Among the important  
subjects discussed at this session were  
the currency question, irrigation, Pacific  
railroad foreclosure, and bounty to  
farmers on exported agricultural pro-  
ducts.

The bounty proposition was in the  
form of a minority report from the com-  
mittee on resolutions, the majority hav-  
ing voted to refuse to place such a  
recommendation in the report to be  
made by it. Delegate Lupin of Cali-  
fornia, in a brief address, urged that the  
farmers, not from a protection or a free-  
trade standpoint, were entitled to gov-  
ernment aid as a matter of justice so  
long as manufacturers were aided. This  
aid by virtue of agricultural products  
being of an export, not an import char-  
acter, the only method of aid was by  
bounty on exports. Delegate Frank J.  
Cannon of Utah, for the majority of the  
resolution committee, opened the oppo-  
sition, declaring his belief that such a  
proposition could only aggravate the ills  
of the farmers and only increase the re-  
sponsibilities of the government; that it  
was impracticable in that no such bounty  
could be made equally just to all  
farmers, not questioning the assertion  
that the bounty would ultimately reach  
the farmer. He opposed it also because  
it was class legislation. Wilson, of South  
Dakota also opposed the proposition  
from a similar standpoint as did also  
Delegate W. J. Bryan of Nebraska who  
further argued that the subject was not  
one of general discussion in the Trans-  
mississippi section, or in any consid-  
erable degree anywhere, and therefore was  
not sufficiently digested by the people to  
warrant action by the congress upon it.

Several features of the irrigation ques-  
tion were discussed. One paper was on  
"The Water Supply of the Rocky Moun-  
tain Region," by F. H. Neuell, of the  
United States geological survey. The  
paper was a general review of the sub-  
ject presenting more especially the fact  
that area of lightest rainfall is coinci-  
dent with the lands still held in govern-  
ment ownership. Hon. Elwood Mead,

state engineer of Wyoming, next read a  
paper upon "Reclamation of Arid  
Lands," discussing more especially the  
lack of concert of action between the  
authorities in the control of the water  
and those in control of the land. "Irriga-  
tion a Living National Issue," was  
the subject of a paper by Editor W. E.  
Smythe of the Irrigation Age. The  
tenor of his remarks was that no issue,  
be it irrigation or otherwise which af-  
fects ever so small a portion of the coun-  
try can, if it tends to the good of that  
portion, be a local issue.

The currency question overshadowed  
all others and it was apparent from the  
beginning of the session that a large  
majority of the 400 delegates were strong  
advocates of free coinage. Ex Gov-  
ernor Anthony disgraced Kansas with  
his usual opposition to "flat money,"  
and the minority report of the resolu-  
tion committee showed that the man  
who wanted "parity" and the "co-oper-  
ation of other nations" and who "depre-  
cated a debased currency" was still  
alive.

The currency resolutions adopted  
were as follows:

Resolved—First. That in direct oppo-  
sition to the plan known as the Baltimore  
plan, the sense of this convention is that all  
issues of paper money should be by the gen-  
eral government.

Resolved—Second. That it is the sense  
of this convention that the pending propo-  
sition for the reformation of our paper cur-  
rency is one that, in our judgment, would  
create additional and perhaps insurmount-  
able difficulties to the return of bimetal-  
lism, and that we are opposed to the same.

Resolved—Third. That in any currency  
reform acted upon we demand that a con-  
stituent part thereof shall be the remonet-  
ization of silver, or that it shall be of such  
a character as to be no impediment to our  
return to bimetalism, as it existed prior to  
1873.

Whereas, An appreciating money stand-  
ard impairs all contracts, bankrupts enter-  
prise, makes idle money profitable by in-  
creasing its purchasing power and suspends  
productive forces of our people; and

Whereas, The spoliation consequent upon  
the outlawry of silver in the interest of the  
creditor class, by constantly increasing the  
value of gold, is undermining all indus-  
trial society, therefore, we demand the im-  
mediate restoration of the free and un-  
limited coinage of gold and silver at the  
present ratio of 16 to 1, without waiting for  
the aid or consent of any other nation on  
earth.

Other resolutions are profuse in their  
demands and declarations. They favor  
the construction of the Nicaragua can-  
nel, the appointment of a commission to  
investigate the wants and needs of  
Alaska, an appropriation for the Hennes-  
pin canal, appropriations for deep water  
on the Texas and California coasts.

They also favor the cession of the  
non-mineral arid lands to the states and

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## AGRICULTURE

### IS WHAT THE SECRETARY OF AG- RICULTURE THINKS ABOUT LEAST,

But He Knows What Kind of Currency  
Suits Him and the Wall Street  
Farmers Best.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30.—In his annual  
report, just issued, Secretary of Agricul-  
tural Morton makes some remarkable,  
not to say foolish, suggestions.

Competition of Russia, Argentina, Aus-  
tralia and other countries favored by  
conditions which enable them to grow  
wheat at a low cost, the secretary de-  
clares, warns American farmers to no  
longer depend upon wheat as a staple  
export crop. On the other hand, a good  
market, at fair prices, is to be found in  
the United Kingdom for barley and corn  
owing to the great variety of uses to  
which it may be applied, promises to be  
in constant and increasing demand.

The secretary reports the inception of  
two important scientific investigations,  
the first relating to grasses and forage  
plants, the other to agricultural soils and  
crop production. The secretary believes  
the importance of these investigations  
justifies the creation of each into one in-  
dependent division, and he has so pro-  
vided in the appropriations for the en-  
suing fiscal year.

The good work of the weather bureau  
is commented upon. Of the bureau of  
animal industry he argues that owners  
of inspected meats should pay for such  
inspection, as they enjoy the benefits of  
it. He declares that for more than two  
years there has been no pleuro pneu-  
monia or other contagious cattle diseases  
in this country and holds that Great  
Britain should modify its cattle laws ac-  
cordingly.

The Russian thistle is made the text  
for a suggestion that seeds of new  
grasses and other plants from abroad  
must be hereafter very carefully in-  
spected.

The report concludes with a statement  
showing that of the total exports of this  
country for 1894 (fiscal year) farm pro-  
ducts aggregated 628 million dollars, or  
72.58 per cent. of the whole. The mar-  
kets of the world, he says, demand from  
the American farmer the very best qual-  
ity of breadstuffs and materials. The  
farmer exchanges his products, the re-  
sults of his labors, which have specific  
purchasing power, for money having a  
general purchasing power.

Under the heading, "For prime pork  
give us prime currency," the secretary  
asks:

"Would the 600 million dollars' worth

of farm products from the United States  
sold last year to foreign nations have  
been as remunerative to the American  
farmer if they had been paid for in sil-  
ver, as they have been when paid for in  
gold or its equivalent? When the stand-  
ard coin of the republic shall be made of  
metal worth as much after it is melted  
as it purports to be worth in coin, and  
the mint values and the commodity val-  
ues of all metallic money approximately  
equal to it, will not the American farmer  
and all other citizens become more per-  
manently prosperous? If the American  
farmer, laborer and manufacturer are  
compelled by law to submit to the meas-  
urement of the value of the products of  
their efforts by a silver standard, will  
not the foreigner in buying those pro-  
ducts always use the same measure? With  
his beef, pork and cereals, the  
American farmer buys money, and why  
should he not demand as superlative  
quality in that which he buys as the  
domestic and foreign purchasers insist  
upon in that which he sells? If those  
buyers demand "prime" beef and  
"prime" pork, why should not the farmer  
demand "prime" currency, the best mea-  
sure of value, the most fair and facile  
medium of exchange, in the most un-  
fluctuating money which the world of  
commerce has ever invented?

Gloating Over Uncle Sam's Misfortune.

NEW YORK, November 29.—Late yes-  
terday the bankers who united to pur-  
chase the whole 50 million issue of the  
new government bonds, sold 3 millions  
of them at 119½. They had previously  
sold 5 millions at 119 and have but 2  
millions more to offer at 119½. What  
price they will ask for the rest of them  
has not been announced. If they suc-  
ceeded in selling the whole issue at 119 to  
119½ they will make over 1 million dol-  
lars clear profit on the transaction.

It seems that the great number of  
bids sent to the secretary of the treasury  
for bonds were not due to any patriotic  
impulse, after all, but that there was a  
real anxiety on the part of a good many  
individuals and corporations to get the  
bonds in exchange for gold. This after-  
competition for these bonds makes very  
ridiculous the pretensions of many Wall  
street people that there was danger of  
the bond issue being a failure. It is  
very doubtful whether there was ever  
the slightest reason for even the sug-  
gestion of failure.

In view of the sudden advance in the  
bonds it becomes worth while to in-  
quire whether or not there was some se-  
cret manipulation of the market in  
order to alarm the treasury department.  
When it was announced that a bond  
issue would be made, the price of the 5's  
issued last February dropped 2 per cent.  
from 119½ to 117½. After the syndi-

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